

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for diagnosing the likelihood and severity of autoimmune disease in a patient, comprising the steps of:
  - a) determining a level of antibodies against an autoantigen for autoimmune disease or a corresponding recombinant antigen or synthetic peptide in a sample from said patient; and
  - b) comparing the level of antibodies determined in step a) with normal levels of said antibodies, wherein
    - (i) normal levels of autoantigen antibodies for autoimmune disease indicate optimal conditions;
    - (ii) higher than normal levels of autoantigen antibodies for autoimmune disease indicate ongoing pathology or prediction of early pathogenic reaction for autoimmune disease.
2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the autoantigen for autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of lupus peptides, arthritis peptides, platelet glycoprotein, and immune complexes.
3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein determining the level of antibodies in steps a) and b) is accomplished using an immunoassay.
4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the immunoassay is an ELISA test.
5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the antibodies in steps a) and b) is measured from saliva.
6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the measured antibodies are IgA.